

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment presents amendments as identified above, and information as indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Appropriate claims have been deleted or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment, and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 43-62 will be pending for consideration and examination in the application.

Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY

Applicant claims priority under §119 of JP 06-268130 filed 7 October 1994, the certified copy of which was filed in Appln. No. 08/539,886 on 6 October 1995. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for priority under §119 in the present continuation is respectfully requested.

Applicant claims benefit under §120 of Appln. No. 10/097,478 filed 18 March 2002, pending, which is a continuation of Appln. No. 09/588,201 filed 6 June 2000,

now US 6,404,498 B1, which is a continuation of Appln. No. 09/107,432 filed 30 June 1998, now US 6,263,099, which is a continuation of Appln. No. 08/539,886 filed 6 October 1995, now US 5,774,222. The specification of the present continuation has been amended to identify the prior applications upon which benefit is claimed in this case. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for benefit under §120 in the present continuation is respectfully requested.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present continuation by virtue of the Assignment filed in Appln. No. 08/539,886 and recorded in the USPTO on 6 October 1995 at Reel 7781, Frames 572 *et seq.*

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendments or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with the present continuation, and therefore is timely. No Petition or fee is required or possible for

entry of this paper. Please charge any actual fees required for entry of this paper to
ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Order No. 501.33745CX4).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul J. Skwierawski", written over a horizontal line.

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